

Facing the greatest military autocracy on earth we found our country unprepared. It is useless now to discuss the reasons why. Having decried military government from the birth of the Republic we had never maintained a great army, nor a strong navy. Therefore criticism of this unpreparedness ill becomes any party, or any men, but the last of all to indulge in it should be that party and leaders of that party which controlled the policies of this Republic for fifty years.

Realizing the seriousness of the task confronting us, all the powers of Government were set in motion to use our utmost strength. Slackers and carping critics within and without Congress have retarded progress, but despite it all no other nation at any time has accomplished so much in an equal period. We have a navy of a thousand ships and 300,000 men. Five hundred thousand soldiers, fully armed and equipped, either fight or are now in camp on the battlefields of France. A million more are drilling, marching, and training here. As fast as modern conveyances will carry them they are hurrying to the front. Within three days during this past week twenty thousand passed through a city of this State over one line of railway.

Other millions have been drawn, are being classified, assembled and equipped for service. So thoroughly have our camps been safeguarded that the death rate has been less than the normal death rate among civilians. A perfect financial system has met the exigencies of the hour without jar or strain, and conservation of food and fuel have enabled us to feed our troops and those of the allies, in part, without any suffering at home. Wise foresight has provided insurance in lieu of pensions to protect relatives and dependents. Arms are being manufactured, munitions provided, and transportation secured as rapidly as labor and machinery will permit. Thus are we equipped to fight under the sea, upon the sea, and on the land, and soon we will have an army in the air.

Men who value political success above patriotism, who prefer pulling back to pushing forward, who can criticise but never help, tear down but never build up, may nag, worry and retard those carrying the burdens, but intelligent men know, and honest men will admit the annals of the past, nor the records of other nations now engaged in war, will disclose the accomplishment